

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 173

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Robert Hiram Green of Dayton for a lifetime of community service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize those Tennesseans who have devoted so much of their lives to serving their communities and the people of this State;

WHEREAS, Robert Hiram Green is one such estimable individual who has dedicated the greater part of his time and energies to improving the lives of those around him; for most of his life, Mr. Green has been an important contributor to the well-being and prosperity of his hometown of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, Hiram Green was born January 11, 1923, to Attie Mattie Barton Green and Alexander Little Paige Green of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Green graduated from Rhea Central High School in 1941; he was well-known as an athlete during his years there, competing on the basketball, football, and track teams; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his success as an athlete, Mr. Green established an excellent academic record; he received awards for his performance in mathematics and agriculture, and was the second person in Tennessee to win the State Farmers Award; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Green enrolled in an extended agricultural class at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; he then used his skills and knowledge to teach Agriculture to servicemen at Rhea Central High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Hiram Green took a position in Oak Ridge doing sheet metal work and, shortly thereafter, he joined the Civil Service and moved to Pearl Harbor to work on ships; and

WHEREAS, after two years in Hawaii, Mr. Green returned to Dayton in 1944 with hopes of enlisting in the United States Army, but he was denied his wish because of a chronic throat condition, the result of a tonsillectomy performed during his time in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Hiram Green channeled his considerable talents into a business of his own; he founded Green Construction, still in operation today, and began building houses; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, Mr. Green married Lorene Cummings; and

WHEREAS, in search of better opportunities, Hiram Green relocated to Michigan in 1954, but returned to Dayton in 1960 to resume Green Construction; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, ten years after his return to Dayton, Mr. Green ran for sheriff; and

WHEREAS, his other successes aside, Mr. Green has made some of his most significant contributions to his community by coaching and sponsoring youth athletic organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Hiram Green began coaching and donating equipment to Dixie Youth Baseball; in his nine consecutive years of coaching, Mr. Green lead his teams to nine district championships and two state titles; and

WHEREAS, he loved to take his little league teams to see the Atlanta Braves, and one especially lucky team was fortunate enough to witness Hank Aaron's record-breaking home run while on a trip with Mr. Green; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 to 1978, Hiram Green sponsored Green Construction Girls' Softball, which won state titles and ranked fifth in the world at one point; in the late 1970s, he sponsored a total of three girls' softball teams; and

WHEREAS, from his high school days as a basketball player, Mr. Green held an affinity for the sport; later, he sponsored the local Lady Eagles basketball team. A generous coach, he shared pizza with his players every Friday night and even invited the opposing teams; and

WHEREAS, he also sponsored four years of church league basketball and a number of basketball tours to Canada, New York, Vermont, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, he has amassed a collection of over 140 trophies in his years of playing on, coaching, and sponsoring various athletic teams, but rather than keep them all for himself, he

has been known to present a trophy to a sick child in the hospital in order to bring cheer to an otherwise frightening ordeal; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Mountain View Methodist Church, Hiram Green sponsored and lead the congregation's Young People Fellowship for six years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Green has also come to appreciate music as a way of sharing one's faith; he has sponsored several gospel groups, most notably Jody Campbell's; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Hiram Green had a ball field dedicated in his honor in 1982 and a city street, Hiram Green Lane, named after him; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Hiram Green Appreciation Day was celebrated in Dayton, and he was presented with the Key to the City; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of hard work and service to his fellows, Hiram Green has taken pride and comfort in his family; in 2001, he was married to Juanita Tallent, and he is the proud father and grandfather of three sons, Jerry, Patrick, and Wayne, one daughter, Yvonne Beaty, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, as a businessman, a family man, a church man, and a tireless supporter of the youth of his community, Hiram Green has come to stand as an example of the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Robert Hiram Green for his service to the people of his community and the State of Tennessee, thank him for all he has done to improve the lives of his fellow citizens, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.